

REMARKS

Claims 14-21 and 24-34 were pending in the application with claims 14, 28, and 34 being the independent claims. Claims 14 and 28 are amended to include allowable subject matter from claims 25 and 29 respectively. Accordingly, these amendments do not raise new issues and should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. Claims 24, 25, 29-32, and 34 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Support for these claim amendments can be found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed.

Advisory Action

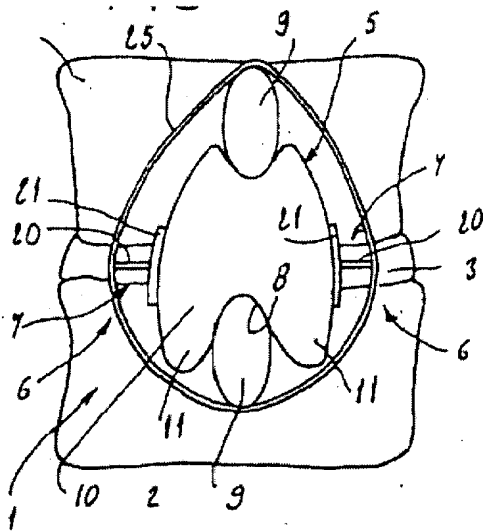
The Advisory Action indicates that the Office did not enter Applicant's response to final Office Action filed October 23, 2007 because the proposed amendments raised new issues and did not amend the independent claims to include the exact language of the allowable dependent claims. By this response, Applicant proposes amending independent claims 14 and 28 to include the exact language recited in allowable dependent claims 25 and 29. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter this response and pass the application to allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

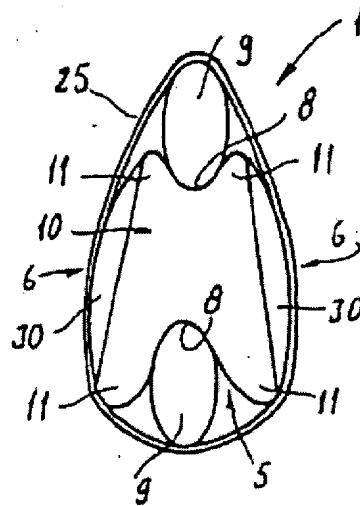
Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 25 and 29. The features of these claims have been moved into their respective base claims, claims 14 and 28, and claims 25 and 29 have been cancelled from the application.

Drawings

The final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007, objected to the drawings for not showing the subject matter of claims 25 (bosses) and 29 (small bars). With respect to claims 25 and 29, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Figs. 2 and 3 (reproduced below) and paragraph [0046] which discloses in part, "FIGS. 3 and 4 show a third embodiment of the assembly 1, in which the latter is similar to that shown in FIG. 2, except that the small bars 20 and plates 21 are replaced by bosses 30."



Applicant's Fig. 2



Applicant's Fig. 3

In Fig. 2, the small bars 20 are clearly shown, as are the bosses 30 in Fig. 3. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests this objection be withdrawn.

Compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 34 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Compliance with 35 U.S.C. §102

The final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007, indicated that claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0045940 to

Eberlein et al. (“Eberlein”). Claim 14 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 25. Thus, claims 14-18 should be in condition for allowance.

Compliance with 35 U.S.C. §103

The final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007, indicated that claims 14-22, 24, 26, 27 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,440,169 to Elberg et al. (“Elberg”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,645,599 to Samani. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as claims 22, 24 and 34 have been cancelled and claim 14 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 25. Thus, claims 14-21, 26 and 27 should be in condition for allowance.

The final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007, indicated that claims 28 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,514,256 to Zucherman et al. (“Zucherman”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,496,318 to Howland et al. (“Howland”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as claims 30-32 have been cancelled and claim 28 has been amended to include allowable subject matter from claim 29. Thus, claims 28 and 33 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the pending claims 14-21, 26-28 and 33 should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections and issue a formal notice of allowance.

Please grant any extension of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web on November 19, 2007.



Diane Sutton